We claim:

- 1. (Amended) A method of making a complex for delivery to a cell, comprising: covalently forming a polymer, from monomers, in the presence of a polyion, the polymer is formed outside of any cell, resulting in a polymer - polyion complex for delivery to a cell, wherein the polyion is not removed from the complex prior to administration.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the polyion is a polyanion.
- 3. The method of claim 2 wherein a complex is formed comprising the polyanion and an amphipathic compound.
- 4. The method of claim 2 wherein a complex is formed comprising the polyion and a cationic compound.
- 5. The method of claim 9 wherein the cationic compound is selected from the group consisting of histone, polylysine and protamine.
- 6. A monomer for forming a polymer having the general structure comprising:

wherein:

R is selected from the group consisting of an orthogonal protecting group and hydrogen;

R' is selected from the group consisting of an orthogonal protecting group, targeting group, reporter molecule and hydrogen;

a is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, and $4\colon$

b is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, and 4; c is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, and 4:

x- is a monovalent ion.

7. A monomer for forming a polymer having the general structure comprising:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} R' \\ & \downarrow \\ (CH \ _2)c \\ & \downarrow + X \\ NHR \ - (CH \ _2)_8 - N - (CH \ _2)_6 - NHR \end{array}$$

wherein

R is selected from the group consisting of a protecting group and hydrogen;

R' is selected from the group consisting of vinyl,

acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, methacrylamide, and a targeting group;

a is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, and 4:

b is selected from the group consisting of 1, 2, 3, and

4; c is selected from the group consisting of 4 to 24;

 X^- is a monovalent ion.

8. A monomer for forming a polymer having the general structure comprising:

wherein



R is selected from the group consisting of vinyl, acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, or methacrylamide;

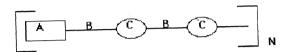
a is selected from the group consisting of 1,2,3 and 4;

}

y is selected from the group consisting of 4 to 24:

X- is a monovalent ion.

9. A polymer containing a repeating unit comprising:



wherein

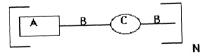
A is a nucleic acid-binding monomer including positively charged organic monomers;

B is a linker selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, cycloaliphatic and aromatic compounds;

C is a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of amide, amidine, disulfide, ether, ester, isothiourea, isourea, sulfonamide, carbamate, carbon-nitrogen double bond, carbon-nitrogen single bond and carbon-nitrogen single bond:

N is greater than or equal to 2.

10. A nucleic acid binding polymer comprising:



wherein

A is a nucleic acid-binding monomer that includes positively charged organic monomers;

B is a linker selected from the group consisting of aliphatic cycloaliphatic, and aromatic compounds;

C is a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of amide, amidine, disulfide, ether, ester, isothiourea, isourea, sulfonamide, carbamate, carbon-nitrogen double bond, carbon-nitrogen single bond;

N is greater than or equal to 2.